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REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 6-15, as amended, remain herein. Claims 16-17 remain herein but are presently withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants appreciate the statements in the Office Action that claims 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim(s) from which they depend.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 4 and allowable claim 5, thereby making claims 1-3 and 6-15 allowable. Minor, editorial changes have been made in claims 1-3 and 6-15. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. In response to the Restriction Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. §121, applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-15, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement since the subject matter of all claims 1-17 is sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims should necessarily

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encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states: "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicant and unnecessary duplicative examination by the USPTO.

2. The specification has been edited to include subtitles.

3. The original Abstract has been amended.

4. Claims 1-3 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Papadopoulos et al. U.S. Patent 6,061,603.

Claims 1-3 and 15 are allowable for the reasons explained above herein, thereby mooting the rejection.

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5. Claims 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Papadopoulos '603. Claims 9 and 12 are allowable for the reasons explained above herein, thereby mooting the rejection.

All claims 1-3 and 6-15 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-3 and 6-15 is respectfully requested.

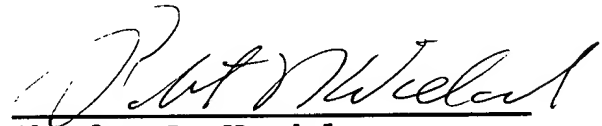
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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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